

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

*2100 Jamieson Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314*

(703)299-3700

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
September 13, 2002**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT SAM DIBBLEY
703-299-3822**

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Marco A. Urrea, age 36, of Orange County, California, pleaded guilty today before The Honorable James C. Cacheris to conspiracy to defraud the United States by facilitating approximately \$160,000 in kickbacks to TRW building managers and others working at TRW's Redondo Beach facility. Five TRW Redondo Beach employees were implicated in the kickback scheme. Urrea faces a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is set for December 5, 2002.

Urrea was employed by Bob Parrett Construction Company ("Parrett Construction"), located in Westminster, California. Parrett Construction held a contract with TRW to repair, maintain, and modify certain TRW facilities that were used by TRW in its performance of United States Government contracts, including contracts with the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), whose headquarters is located in Chantilly, Virginia. From 1996 until January 2001, Urrea worked as the Parrett Construction project manager for the TRW contract.

With the permission of Parrett Construction officials, Urrea arranged for Parrett Construction to pay a number of gratuities worth approximately \$77,000 to former TRW building manager Jeffrey A. Zmina. In May 2002, Zmina pleaded guilty in federal court in Los Angeles to accepting illegal kickbacks on a United States Government contract.

Urrea facilitated the payment of gratuities totaling approximately \$58,000 to three other unidentified TRW building managers. Parrett Construction paid the gratuities to influence and reward the TRW employees in connection with the Redondo Beach business.

Urrea had an understanding with certain TRW building managers that, in order to recover the amount of the gratuities, Parrett Construction would inflate the bills it submitted to TRW for work performed on buildings that were used in the performance of NRO and DOD contracts. Since TRW was allowed to bill most of its engineering overhead costs to the NRO and the DOD, 94% of the cost of the gratuities was eventually passed on to the United States Government.

In another incident, in order to lend financial assistance to a Parrett Construction official who was engaged in a home remodeling project, a fourth unidentified TRW employee, along with Urrea, arranged for TRW to pay approximately \$25,000 to Parrett Construction for non-existent roof work on a TRW building.

The investigation was conducted by special agents of the FBI, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the Office of the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Learned.